

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the outstanding non-final Office Action mailed May 5, 2005. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and pending claims are respectfully requested.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 43-46 have been allowed and claims 12-15 and 33-36 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. In that it is believed that every rejection has been overcome, it is respectfully submitted that each of the claims that remains in the case is presently in condition for allowance.

II. Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

A. Rejection of Claims 1-11, 16-32, and 37-42

Claims 1-11, 16-32, and 37-42 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Narasimhan* (U.S. Patent 6,446,192). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

In expressing the reasons for the allowance of claim 13, the Office Action states that the "inclusion of: appliance is adapted to restart upon receiving a restart signal from said communication module . . . has not been found, taught or suggested by the prior art of record." Claim 1 has been amended to include the features of claim 13 in the present response, and therefore, claim 1 should be allowed. Accordingly, claims 2-7, 9-11, 16-20, which depend from claim 1, should also be allowable over the cited art.

Regarding claim 21, Applicants submit that *Narasimhan* does not teach or suggest "a communication module for receiving one or more software components, each software component for processing said equipment data in accordance with an optional service, and for receiving a set of configuration data adapted to enable or disable said software components." In particular, *Narasimhan* fails to disclose that the network interface chip 36 can receive software components. Accordingly, claim 21 is allowable over *Narasimhan* for at least this reason.

Regarding claim 22, Applicants submit that *Narasimhan* does not teach or suggest "a communication module for receiving a set of configuration data adapted to enable or disable said software components, wherein said software components comprise at least software with instructions for monitoring a different appliance." In contrast, *Narasimhan* discloses that the "network interface chip 36 can be permanently installed in the equipment 34, or it can be attached externally to the equipment as part of a module." Col. 5, lines 29-31. Therefore, claim 22 is allowable over *Narasimhan* for at least this reason.

In expressing the reasons for the allowance of claim 33, the Office Action states that the "inclusion of: software is adapted to restart said monitoring appliance after receiving and storing said configuration data . . . has not been found, taught or suggested by the prior art of record." Claim 23 has been amended to include the features of claim 33 in the present response, and therefore, claim 23 should be allowed. Accordingly, claims 24-28 and 30-36, which depend from claim 23, should also be allowable over the cited art.

With regard to claim 37, Applicants submit that *Narasimhan* does not teach or suggest "each software component [] processing said equipment data in accordance with an optional service, wherein said optional service includes functionality for

monitoring a different appliance." In contrast, *Narasimhan* discloses that the "network interface chip 36 can be permanently installed in the equipment 34, or it can be attached externally to the equipment as part of a module." Col. 5, lines 29-31. Accordingly, claim 37 is allowable over *Narasimhan* for at least the reason that the network interface chip 26 in *Narasimhan* is unable to monitor a different appliance. Thus, claims 38-41, which depend from claim 37, should also be allowable over the cited art.

Regarding claim 42, Applicants submit that *Narasimhan* does not teach or suggest "a first communication module for receiving one or more software components, each software component for processing said equipment data in accordance with an optional service, and for receiving a set of configuration data adapted to enable or disable said software components." In particular, *Narasimhan* fails to disclose that the network interface chip 36 can receive software components. Accordingly, claim 42 is allowable over *Narasimhan* for at least this reason.

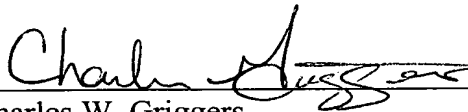
B. Cancellation of Claims 8, 13, 29, and 33

Claims 8, 13, 29, and 33 have been canceled without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer. Applicants reserve the right to present these canceled claims, or variants thereof, in continuing applications to be filed subsequently.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that Applicants' pending claims are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (770) 933-9500.

Respectfully submitted,


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